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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6019

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM,AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JULY 12-JULY 25, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5595

1. SUMMARY. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REVEALED THAT ITS EDITOR, JAMES NEILSON, HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF A HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN. COURT ORDERS THE RELEASE OF A PEN DETAINEE. FIFTY PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED FOR HOLDING AN ILLEGAL MEETING THE COURTS CONTINUE TO HAND DOWN SENTENCES.

2. ACCORDING TO THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD A HARASSMENT
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CAMPAIGN AGAINST ITS EDITOR, JAMES NEILSON, HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. THIS CAMPAIGN INCLUDED

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CRANK PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS TO NEILSON AND HIS FAMILY. MEN CLAIMING TO BE WITH A ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION APPEARED AT THE NEILSON HOME ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON A CHILEAN NAMED NEILSON (THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A VISIT). SEVERAL ADS APPEARED IN THE PAPER ADVERTISING AN APARTMENT FOR RENT AND ITEMS FOR SALE AND GAVE NEILSON'S ADDRESS. FINALLY, ARMED MEN VISITED THE NEILSON HOME, FIRST CLAIMING TO BE WITH THE FEDERAL POLICE AND THEN WITH THE COORDINACION FEDERAL. ON JULY 21 THE NEWSPAPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) ASKED THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR TO INVESTIGATE THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEILSON. PRESIDENT V, JULY 21, PROMISED THAT NEILSON WOULD BE GIVEN "FULL PROTECTION." THE FEDERAL POLICE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THESE INCIDENTS. (A MORE DETAILED REPORT ON THIS CASE CAN BE FOUND IN BA-5819).

3. THE CRIMINAL COURT HAS ORDERED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO EITHER RELEASE PEN PRISONER DAVID MELUL OR PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. MELUL HAS BEEN DETAINED SINCE 1975. ACCORDING TO THE COURT'S DECISION, EVEN THOUGH MELUL'S FILE INDICATES THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, "TO KEEP HIM UNDER ARREST SINCE DIE, WHEN THE NEED FOR OVERRULING THE CONSTITUTIONAL OPTION OF LEAVING THE COUNTRY HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN, IS CLEARLY OPPOSED TO THE 95TH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND REDUCES ARTICLE 23 (CONCERNING THE STATE OF SIEGE) TO SIMPLE TYPEWRITTEN WORDS." THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE COURT'S DECISION.

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4. FIFTY PERSONS WERE ARRESTED ON JULY 24 WHILE HOLDING A MEETING IN THE PAPER WORKERS' UNION HEAD-QUARTERS. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR HOLDING AN "UNAUTHORIZED POLITICAL MEETING." AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WERE: ALDO TESSIO, EX-GOVERNOR OF SANTA FE; SIMON ALBERTO LAZARA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIFIED SOCIALIST PARTY; AND SANTOS RUSSOMANO, SECRETARY OF THE POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY. THESE THREE HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED, AND ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THE REMAINING 47 WILL BE RELEASED ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

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5. A FEDERAL JUDGE IN THE PROVINCE OF CHUBUT HANDED
DOWN SENTENCES RANGING FROM 3-8 YEARS TO TWELVE
SUBVERSIVES. AT THE SAME TIME, FIVE OTHERS CHARGED
WITH THE TWELVE WERE ACQUITTED.
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